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Appl No: 09/658,778  
Attorney Docket: 4450-0249P

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Ghassan SEMAAN Conf.: 4433  
Serial No.: 09/658,778 Art Unit: 2662  
Filed: September 11, 2000 Examiner: A. Elallam  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PARTITIONING SONET  
FRAMES INTO LOGICAL CHANNELS TO OPTIMIZE  
BANDWIDTH UTILIZATION

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 for RCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

March 22, 2004

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated October 21, 2003 and the Advisory Action dated March 15, 2004, the period for reply petitioned to be extended two months herein to March 22, 2003, the following remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application as follows:

- Amendments to claims beginning on page 2; and
- Remarks/Arguments beginning on page 8.

This Reply, being filed on the first business day following March 21, 2004, is timely filed within the second month extended due date.

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02 FC:1202 18.00 OP

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03 FC:1252 310.00 OP

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MAR 25 2003

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